

**FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES, MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Thom Roy at 7:15 p.m. Those in attendance included: Peg Pinkham, School Board rep., Charles Kimball and Judy Peterson. Not present were: Marc Wood, Rick Clark, Joe Delahunty, and Marilyn Baker. Administrative Assistant Heidi Clark was also present to review any changes to the proposed Town Budget and she also provided the year-end updated revenue information for 2003 and revenue projections for 2004.

No votes were taken at this meeting because there wasn't a quorum of elected budget committee members present.

Heidi answered any questions that were brought up about town budgets. The revenue information showed that the Parks and Recreation revenue was down from what was anticipated as revenue. This year's proposed budget includes an increase for field maintenance and a line item for a two-sided sign for the field and engineering to correct the drainage and washout problem at the fields.

Heidi noted that the property revaluation has to start in 2004 and that the values would go into effect as of April 1, 2005. The \$30,000 request is for computers and software that is approved by DRA for recording and maintaining information for revaluation.

Rescue Squad - Volunteer Stipend includes the length of service program. Concern was expressed regarding people collecting two length of service rewards for being on two different volunteer squads. The concern was that there should be a stipulation to only earn this from one program.

Bridges - The budget line is for engineer and repair of the abutment to the bridge on Sandown Road.

Heidi noted that the Public Hearing for the petition bond of \$4,000,000 for open space land or development rights purchase will be held on February 9th.

There were questions regarding the \$500,000 bond for the school roof project that hasn't been spent yet; when does it impact the budget and the tax rate? (not answered yet)

Due to no vote being taken yet on either budget, there are two more meetings scheduled in case they are needed. The next meeting is January 21st and the additional meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 26th and Wednesday, January 28th if needed. A quorum needs to be present in order for a vote to be taken and this is needed before the Public Hearing which is on February 3rd. Heidi will have an updated budget with Selectmen recommendations for the Budget Committee to vote on available for the next meeting. Thom noted that the Town Budget request shows an increase of \$385,000 over last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Judy Peterson, Secretary